

CONFIDENTIAL.]

## REPORT

[No. 29 of 1881.

ON

## NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 16th July 1881.

## LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
<b>BENGALI.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhárat Shramajíví" ...	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grámvártá Prakáshiká" ...	Comercolly	175	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
3	"Sansodhíní" ...	Chittagong	600	5th July 1881.
4	"Purva Pratidhwani" ...	Ditto	.....	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
5	"Ananda Bazar Patriká" ...	Calcutta	700	4th ditto.
6	"Arya Darpan" ...	Ditto	.....	15th ditto.
7	"Bhárat Bandhu" ...	Ditto	.....	
8	"Bhárat Mihir" ...	Mymensingh	671	5th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser" ...	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwán Sanjívaní" ...	Burdwan	296	12th ditto.
11	"Cháruvártá" ...	Sherepore, Mymensing	.....	4th ditto.
12	"Dacca Prakásh" ...	Dacca	350	10th ditto.
13	"Education Gazette" ...	Hooghly	745	8th ditto.
14	"Halisahar Prakáshiká" ...	Calcutta	.....	9th ditto.
15	"Hindu Ranjiká" ...	Beauleah, Rájsháhye	200	13th ditto.
16	"Mediní" ...	Midnapore	.....	
17	"Murshidábád Patriká" ...	Berhampore	487	
18	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi" ...	Ditto	.....	
19	"Navavibhákar" ...	Calcutta	850	4th ditto.
20	"Paridarshak" ...	Sylhet	.....	26th June & 3rd July 1881.
21	"Pratikár" ...	Berhampore	275	
22	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh" ...	Kakiná, Rungpore	250	14th July 1881.
23	"Sádháraní" ...	Chinsurah	500	10th ditto.
24	"Sahachar" ...	Calcutta	500	6th ditto.
25	"Som Prakásh" ...	Changripottá, 24-Perghs.	.....	11th ditto.
26	"Sudhákar" ...	Mymensing	.....	
27	"Sulabha Samáchár" ...	Calcutta	4,000	9th ditto.
28	"Srihatta Prakásh" ...	Sylhet	440	4th ditto.
29	"Tripurá Vártávaha" ...	Commillah	.....	
<i>Daily.</i>				
30	"Samvád Prabhákar" ...	Calcutta	700	8th to 14th July 1881.
31	"Samvád Púrnachandrodaya" ...	Ditto	300	9th to 14th ditto.
32	"Samáchár Chandriká" ...	Ditto	625	11th to 13th ditto.
33	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká" ...	Ditto	500	12th to 14th ditto.
34	"Prabhátí" ...	Ditto	.....	9th to 14th ditto.
35	"Samáchár Sudhábarsan" ...	Ditto	.....	
<b>ENGLISH AND URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
36	"Urdu Guide" ...	Ditto	365	9th ditto.
<b>HINDI.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Behár Bandhu" ...	Bankipore, Patna	500	7th ditto.
38	"Bhárat Mitra" ...	Calcutta	500	7th ditto.
39	"Sár Sudhánidhi" ...	Ditto	200	11th ditto.
40	"Uchit Baktá" ...	Ditto	.....	9th ditto.
<b>PERSIAN.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
41	"Jám-Jahán-numá" ...	Ditto	250	8th ditto.
<b>URDU.</b>				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
42	"Akhbár-i-Darussaltanat" ...	Ditto	.....	
<b>ASSAMESE.</b>				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
43	"Assam Vilásiní" ...	Sibsagar	.....	

## POLITICAL.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
July 7th, 1881.

THE *Behar Bandhu*, of the 7th July, remarks that the people of Afghanistan appear to favour the cause of Ayub and Abdur Rahman. Ayub Khan, and it is now therefore an interesting question how long Abdur Rahman will be able to remain in power.

## PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

PARIDARSHAK,  
June 26th, 1881.

2. The *Paridarshak*, of the 26th June, received on the 9th July, regrets to have to notice that Mr. Meares, the Mr. Meares, Judge of Sylhet. Acting Judge of Sylhet, has begun to act illegally in certain matters. He does not, for instance, allow the public, except of course the suitors, to be present in Court. Cases are frequently heard with closed doors. Then, again, he has ordered that the stools which are placed in the Court for the accommodation of the public should be kept upside down to prevent people from sitting thereon. Whence has Mr. Meares, asks the Editor, received the power to make such orders? Has he obtained any order from the High Court on this behalf?

PARIDARSHAK.

3. The same paper dwells on the loyalty of the people of this country to the British Government, and remarks that Amendment of the law for the punishment of seditious writings. it is not wise on the part of the rulers to foster the notion that they distrust their native subjects. There is not the least necessity for amending the existing law for the punishment of seditious writings.

PARIDARSHAK.

4. The same paper refers to the increase of intemperance among the people that has been caused by the introduction of the outstill system.

This cheapening of spirituous liquor is producing a most disastrous effect upon the morals and resources of the masses.

PARIDARSHAK,  
July 3rd, 1881.

5. In an article on the condition of the Bengal Jails, which the Editor promises to continue, the same paper in its issue of the 3rd July, dwells on the cruel treatment

to which the prisoners are subjected at the hands of the jailors, who seem utterly to ignore the principle that the object of imprisonment is not punishment, but reform of the convicts. It is to be regretted that, while in all other countries considerable improvement has been effected in the condition of the jails, in Bengal the prisoners are being gradually treated with increasing severity. Owing to the extremely hard labour which is imposed upon them in utter disregard of their social position and habits of life, not a few convicts die in the jail. They are not allowed full meals, and are flogged for the most trivial faults.

CHARU VARTA,  
July 4th, 1881.

6. The *Charu Varta*, of the 4th July, observes that Bengalis seem ever doomed to suffer disappointment. Thus they expected much from Sir Ashley Eden, but have their expectations been fulfilled?

The projected Agricultural College at Sibpore. Now that Sir Ashley will shortly lay down his office, the chief public measures of his administration may be briefly referred to with advantage. Now, the part taken by him in the enactment of the Press law will for ever remain a blot upon his administration. The establishment of the Sibpore Engineering College, however, is a measure which was undertaken for the purpose of supplying the increasingly large number of educated natives with suitable employment and careers. This noble monument of Sir Ashley Eden's rule was about to be destroyed through the unwise partiality of Mr. Croft, but the Lieutenant-Governor in time came to the rescue and thus saved it. The founding of two agricultural scholarships for the benefit of the natives of these provinces is an act for which Sir Ashley Eden will be remembered with gratitude by posterity. His Honor has gone further, and has made arrangements for setting up an Agricultural

College at Sibpore. It is to be hoped that, in the new institution, there will not occur scenes such as those in which Mr. Fouracres recently figured so prominently. The last two measures will long continue to inspire the natives of Bengal with gratitude to Sir Ashley Eden. They will stand as pyramids defying the effects of time.

7. The same paper observes with gratification that the recent orders of the Government of India, regarding the purchase of stores for Government. purchase of stores for use in public offices, are calculated to foster indigenous manufactures. Government is entitled to thanks for this action.

CHARU VARTA,  
July 4th, 1881.

8. The *Navavibhākar*, of the 4th July, observes that the time has come when Government cannot any longer defer the adoption of measures for the prevention of high-handed acts on the part of Magistrates.

Mr. Mosley again.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,  
July 4th, 1881.

Acts of oppression committed by the Alexanders, Clays, and Mosleys are gradually increasing in number; and, if allowed to go on unchecked, will seriously disturb the peace and happiness of the people of India. These discourteous and high-handed Civilians are bringing discredit on both the Government and the service to which they belong. Mr. Mosley, the Magistrate of Moorshedabad, is well known to the readers, who have not doubtless forgotten his treatment of Babu Atul Chandra Chatterji, Deputy Magistrate of Jangipore. It would have been well if the Lieutenant-Governor had taken serious notice of his arbitrary conduct on that occasion, and thus vindicated the cause of justice. To the great regret of the public, this was not done, and the result is that Mr. Mosley's name is once again before the public. The District Magistrates now-a-days do not set much value upon the censure or praise which may be awarded by the High Court, and are full of the notion that they are rulers of their own districts. The reason of this is not far to seek. The High Court has no power to stop promotion or salary in the case of these officers; hence the recurrence of such scandals as those with which Mr. Mosley has so often of late been identified. The Editor then proceeds to refer to the case of Ram Kumar Das, the Daroga of the Jelinghee Police outpost, who for failing to send up for trial certain suspected persons, owing to, as he believed, insufficient evidence, was himself tried and sentenced to eight months' rigorous imprisonment, the Magistrate, Mr. Mosley, combining in himself the functions of both prosecutor and judge. On appeal to the High Court Ram Kumar was acquitted, and the Judges expressed displeasure with the conduct of the Magistrate. The Daroga now prayed to be reinstated in his former post, but the Magistrate, following the example of Mr. Alexander of Mymensingh, refused his prayer, and made certain comments, in a disrespectful spirit, upon the decision passed by the High Court. The Editor exhorts Sir Richard Garth to assert the authority of his Court and save its prestige. It behoves Lord Ripon also to attend to the matter, as it is not likely that Sir Ashley Eden will do anything by way of punishment to Mr. Mosley.

9. We extract the following observations from an article in the

The condition of the Bengal peasantry. same paper headed, the Miserable Condition of the Bengal Peasantry:—However prosperous and contented the condition of the Bengal peasantry may be described by the rulers to be, the fact is they are sunk in the most abject misery. Official reports are always misleading, and, like the Dead Sea apple, are very fair to the sight. Government does not either understand the hardship of the people, or is deterred for fear of public opinion from disclosing the truth. So recently as in the last *Calcutta Gazette*, the Lieutenant-Governor has described the peasantry as a prosperous class. We are not much prepared to place confidence in these statements. The

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

condition of the agriculturists has indeed in a few districts attained some improvement, but the masses continue to be ill-fed, ill-clad, and ill-housed, and without any idea of plenty or comfort. The peasantry of East Bengal, it is true, have been able to improve their status to some extent; but in many districts, particularly in Nuddea, there exists considerable distress among them. Now there are two conditions which are essential to the prosperity of an agricultural community; namely (1) the recurrence of good crops, and (2) the demand of grain in other parts of the country. It is seldom that these two conditions co-exist. The peasantry of Bengal derived good profits during the last famine in Madras, but the low prices which now prevail have made them losers. All schemes to ameliorate their condition must fail, unless efforts were first made to deliver them from the hands of the mahajuns. It is therefore quite premature to teach them to agitate for political rights, while they continue bound hand and foot to the mahajuns. It behoves Government, in view of this fact, to itself commence granting them loans.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

10. The same paper dwells on the injurious effects which have followed from the introduction of the outstill system. Spirituous

liquor has been cheapened, and the lower classes of the people are drinking to their hearts' content. Their health is being ruined by the increased consumption of the deleterious drink manufactured in the outstill, while there is increased poverty and demoralization. It is the duty of Government to look after the welfare of the ignorant masses, and not simply to be always casting about for an augmented excise revenue.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

11. The same paper devotes an article to the consideration of the new Criminal Procedure Code Bill:—There was

The Criminal Procedure Code Bill. no necessity in this country, with its quiet and law-abiding people, and when peace was reigning in it, for passing Mr. Stephen's Criminal Procedure Code of 1872. If the country had been merely the abode of Wahabees, Irish Fenians, German Socialists, or Russian Nihilists, the measure would have had some justification in its favour. But still it became law and vested the Magistrates with almost unlimited powers. The Legislature, however, does not seem to be satisfied with this, and Mr. Stokes, a fit successor of Mr. Stephen, is anxious to enhance the rigors of the already stringent Criminal Procedure Code. Only one of the provisions of the new Code is now referred to, namely the provision that, in case of a fire breaking out, the public shall be bound to render assistance to the Magistrate and the Police to put out the fire. Now one does not see the necessity of this provision. It is well known that in case of a fire breaking out in a locality, the neighbours are always ready to put it out. Mr. Stokes evidently seeks to make his Code a code of law as well as of ethics. In order to leave behind him in India a lasting reputation as a Jurist, he is anxious that the people should be able from his Code to learn not only what is the law of the land, but also what the duties are which they owe to society. It is therefore to be regretted that he has not inserted in the Code provisions proscribing intemperance, adultery, indolence, and so forth. Had he done so, there would not have been any longer any necessity of teaching the Bible in the churches, or morality in the schools.

NAVAVIBHAKAR.

12. The same paper notices with regret that the reputation so long

The Bench and the Bar, and the enjoyed by the High Court for being the case of Abdul Sobhan. refuge of the victims of magisterial high-handedness, and the fearless and impartial opponent of wrong-doing, is gradually disappearing. The Judges, at least some of them, are now more anxious to dispose of cases than to do justice to suitors. A few are of opinion that in this country it is not advisable to let off the accused,

while others are always willing to uphold the wrong done by the magisterial officers in the mofussil. This is not all. Sufficient courtesy is not shown to the members of the Bar. The Editor then proceeds to refer to the recent case of Abdul Sobhan, and the orders passed by the Chief Justice in the appeal made to him by the members of the Bar. Sir Richard Garth is taken to task for throwing all the blame on Mr. Jackson only, while the fault really was of the Judges Prinsep and Cunningham; and remarks that, owing to the selection of incompetent men for the post of Judge in the High Court, the people are gradually losing their confidence in the Court.

13. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 4th July, is exceedingly glad to read that Lord Hartington has promised to

India and the Liberals. direct the attention of the Government of

India to the condition of the prisoners in the jails in this country, and to the inutility of inserting in the new Criminal Procedure Code Bill certain provisions of an old Regulation of 1817 (*sic*), relating to political prisoners and their properties. The Liberals will earn the undying gratitude of the people of India if they can succeed in mitigating the rigor of the Indian Jail and the Indian Criminal law.

14. The same paper publishes a letter from a correspondent at Simla, Simla as permanent head-quarters of in which the writer refers to the hardship of the Government of India.

subordinate native clerks in the Government offices who are annually taken up to this station. They receive but low salaries, and are not granted any allowances such as those drawn by superior clerks. Provisions are very dear at Simla, and these men find it extremely difficult to make both ends meet. Further, in consideration of the circumstance that, owing to the large influx of visitors into Simla, it has lost its character as a sanitarium, and that in Calcutta the services of competent clerks are procurable at cheap rates—a fact which cannot be predicated of Simla—it behoves Government to seriously consider whether the headquarters of the Supreme Government should not be permanently located at Calcutta.

15. The *Srihatta Prakásh*, of the 4th July, contains an eulogistic notice of Mr. Elliot's administration of Assam, Assam.

and the Editor expresses regret at the announcement that he will shortly leave the province. From the manner in which he has done his work during the brief period of his rule, he has won the goodwill and confidence of the people, and they would have been glad to hear of his being made permanent in the Chief Commissionership. His schemes for the administration of the Naga Hills, with the sole exception of the proposal to disarm the Nagas, has met with the entire approval of the public.

16. The *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 5th July, refers to the case of Abdul Sobhan. The observations made by the Editor are similar to those noticed in paragraph 12.

The case of Abdul Sobhan. 17. The same paper contains an article on Mr. Mosley of Moorshedabad. Mr. Mosley.

The observations made are similar to those noticed in paragraph 8.

18. The *Sahachar*, of the 6th July, remarks in reference to the case of Abdul Sobhan, and the conflict between the

Bench and the Bar to which it has given birth, that Sir Richard Garth has failed to do his duty in this matter. From the manner in which the High Court has for some time past done its work, the people have gradually had their confidence in the Judges shaken to a considerable extent. They now, before passing any judgment, reflect upon the consequences that will accrue to Government therefrom. Under the circumstances, it has become the duty of the Government of India to assume by legislation powers of supervision over the High Court.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA,  
July 4th, 1881.

ANANDA BAZAR  
PATRIKA.

SRIHATTA PRAKASH,  
July 4th, 1881.

BHARAT MIHIR,  
July 6th, 1881.

BHARAT MIHIR.

SAHACHAR,  
July 6th, 1881.

SAMACHAR,  
July 6th, 1881.

19. The same paper observes that, in the recent case between the Mr. Harrison and the missionaries Calcutta missionaries and Mr. Harrison, the of Calcutta. latter was perfectly justified in his action. The missionaries have done him wrong by questioning his motive. The Police Commissioner should by law be vested with authority over the squares.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,  
July 9th, 1881.

20. The *Sulabha Samáchár*, of the 9th July, refers to the inconvenience to which native gentlemen, who have Native passengers and the Railway Police. to see their friends or families intending to travel by rail safely seated in the railway carriage, and their goods properly booked, are subjected owing to the order which has been given to the Railway Police to admit none but passengers into the station platform. The courtesy of the police constables is notorious. If there is really any objection to allow the friends of an intending passenger to accompany him or her to the railway platform, the Editor would suggest the issue of platform tickets at one or two pice each to such persons. This is the practice in all large stations on the Bombay railway. If the suggestion were adopted, gentlemen would be saved from much trouble and courtesy.

HALISAHAR  
PRAKASHIKA,  
July 9th, 1881.

21. The *Halisahar Prakáshiká*, of the 9th July, notices with concern the misunderstanding to which the case of The case of Abdul Sobhan. Abdul Sobhan has given rise between the Bench and the Bar of the High Court. Sir Richard Garth has in this case shown a weak-mindedness which is greatly to be regretted [See paragraph 12].

SADHARANI,  
July 10th, 1881.

22. The *Sádhárani*, of the 10th July, remarks that the people are gradually losing their confidence in the decisions of the High Court. This remark was once before made in these columns, and the object then was, as now, to acquaint Government with the fact in order that the defect might be remedied. The truth of the observation has now been painfully made clear in the case of Abdul Sobhan, which was heard by the Judges Prinsep and Cunningham.

SOM PRAKASH,  
July 11th, 1881.

23. The *Som Prakásh*, of the 11th July, discusses in a long article the expediency of appointing Lieutenant-Governors to both Madras and Bombay. Even on the present occasion the late Mr. Adam's successor should have been selected from among the experienced Lieutenant-Governors who are in the country, instead of conferring the vacant post on a man who is quite new to it. The appointment of such a Governor necessarily involves the maintenance of a body of highly-paid councillors, possessed of local experience, for his advice and guidance, and thus entails needless expenditure upon the State.

SOM PRAKASH.

24. The same paper advocates the discontinuance of Government monopoly in opium, because it is an essentially immoral traffic, but is at a loss to see how the loss of revenue that will result will be made good.

SOM PRAKASH.

25. The same paper contains a long article on the hospitals of Calcutta. The Editor is thankful to Sir Ashley Eden and Dr. Payne for checking the wasteful expenditure which formerly used to take place in these hospitals; but regrets that they have carried economy to its extreme limits. The evidence of Dr. Payne and his followers to the contrary notwithstanding, it is a fact that the in-door patients in the hospitals do not at present receive proper medicine and diet. The Editor is personally aware that in the Campbell Hospital such a simple medicine as chlorate of potash was not forthcoming for days together. A poor person who was sent for treatment to the Medical College Hospital by the Editor, and subsequently died there, was never, so long he was alive, given proper medicine or diet. This policy of

economy has proved injurious to the patients as well as to the students of the college, the latter of whom do not now enjoy the opportunity of studying the effect of medicine and diet upon the sick. The worst medicines and stimulants, and the worst cooked food, are given to the patients. The state of things is somewhat better in the Eye Infirmary, but the spectacle in the Campbell Medical Hospital defies description. It is simply revolting. The Editor in conclusion urges the discontinuance of the use of cinchona febrifuge, which produces nausea.

26. In an article on the case of Abdul Sobhan, the same paper makes observations similar to those noticed in paragraph 12.

The case of Abdul Sobhan.

SOM PRAKASH.  
July 11th, 1881.

#### EDUCATION.

27. Referring to the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of the expelled students of the Sibpore Engineering College, the *Cháru Vártá*, of the 4th July, remarks that there was no necessity for His Honor's interference in such a matter, or of publishing a Resolution in the official Gazette. The boys of course acted foolishly in having made a joint memorial, but that they laboured under real grievances appears from the fact that Government has now issued orders for the construction of a good dwelling-house for their accommodation, and relieved Mr. Fouracres of his work in connection with the boarding arrangements of the pupils. The punishment awarded to the students is severe, while in the case of Mr. Fouracres Government has not done anything beyond removing him from his post of Superintendent of the boarding arrangements. It is to be regretted that men like David Hare, DeRozio, Woodrow and Sutcliffe are becoming fewer in the Education Department, and that consequently disputes between teachers and pupils are now frequently heard of. The circular order which the Director of Public Instruction has been directed to issue, insisting upon the enforcement of discipline in schools and colleges, will, it is feared, lead to gross abuse of authority on the part of the teachers.

28. Referring to the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of the expelled students of the Sibpore College, the *Bhárat Mihir*, of the 5th July, remarks that the authorities have made much of a little thing, and magnified an act of insubordination committed by some school-boys into a rebellion. The students have been severely punished for their fault, but not Mr. Fouracres. It is abundantly proved from the official reports now published that the students had substantial grounds of complaint against Mr. Fouracres, and yet neither Sir Ashley Eden nor Mr. Croft has had anything to say to him by way of censure. Is this justice?

29. The observations by the *Sahachar*, of the 6th July, on the same subject, are similar to those noticed in paragraph 17 of our last Report.

30. The *Sádhárani*, of the 10th July, remarks that it has always desired the success of the Hindoo Hostels established in connection with the different

Government Colleges in Bengal, and it is therefore with regret that the Editor has to refer to the dissatisfaction which is expressed by the inmates of the Krishnaghur Hostel in regard to house accommodation and lodging expenses. The Chinsurah Hostel has proved a complete success. The local position of the hostel is everything that could be desired. The boys live in a good house, and the messing arrangements are cheap and good. In the Krishnaghur Hostel, on the contrary, the boys, while living in a bad house, have to pay more. The matter should receive attention.

CHÁRU VÁRTÁ,  
July 4th, 1881.

BHÁRAT MIHIR,  
July 5th, 1881.

SAHACHAR,  
July 6th, 1881.

SÁDHÁRANI,  
July 10th, 1881.

BEHAR BANDHU,  
July 7th, 1881.

31. Writing on the Sibpore affair, the *Behar Bandhu*, of the 7th July, observes that the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor will not satisfy anybody. How could it, considering the partiality that has been shewn to a member of his own race and clique? It is to be regretted that such high authorities should be devoid of all sense of justice.

JAM JAHAN NUMA,  
July 8th, 1881.

32. Referring to the decision of the Lieutenant-Governor in the case of the expelled students of the Sibpore Engineering College, the *Jám Jáhan núma*, of the 8th July, remarks that the punishment awarded to the boys has been proportionate to their offence.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

*Bengali Translator.*

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,  
The 16th July 1881.